

THE LITTLE GIANT

A NEWSLETTER OF THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

Volume VI, Number 1, April 1994



Saturday, April 23, 1994

Commemoration of the
181st Anniversary of the Birth of
Senator Stephen A. Douglas



11:00 a.m.

Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb
636 East 35th Street

Wreath-laying and comments by
C. Robert Douglas, president of the
Stephen A. Douglas Association



12:30 p.m.

Cocktails and Luncheon
Prairie Restaurant
in the Hyatt on Printers Row
Burnham Room
500 South Dearborn Street

Address by
George D. Levy
"To Die in Chicago:
Confederate Prisoners at
Camp Douglas"



Cost for the program and dinner:
\$24 per person



Public parking is available across the
street from the restaurant.



Please return the enclosed reservation form, with remittance, or call the Douglas Association offices (312-341-1860) by Wednesday, April 20.



GEORGE D. LEVY TO DELIVER ADDRESS ON "TO DIE IN CHICAGO: CONFEDERATES AT CAMP DOUGLAS"

by Barbara Hughett

THE 181st anniversary of the birth of Senator Stephen A. Douglas will be commemorated on April 23 by the Stephen A. Douglas Association, beginning at 11:00 a.m. with ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb State Historic Site, and continuing at 12:30 p.m. with a luncheon at the Prairie Restaurant. An address will be given by George D. Levy, Chicago attorney and professor of accounting at Roosevelt University. He is the author of a soon-to-be-released book on the prisoner-of-war experience at Camp Douglas during the American Civil War. "To Die in Chicago: Confederates at Camp Douglas" is the subject of Levy's address and also the title of his book.

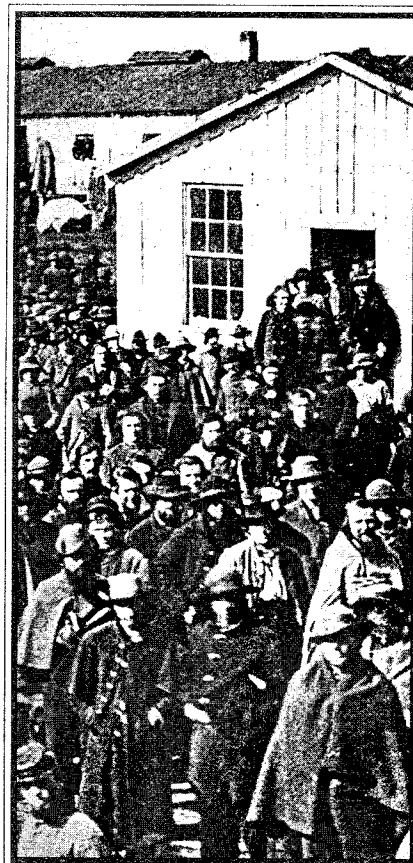
Camp Douglas, located on part of Oakenwald, the Douglas family estate, was not meant to be a prisoner-of-war camp. In the fall of 1861, construction began on a military depot at the southeastern limits of Chicago. Barracks and stables were prepared for about 8000 troops. When the first prisoners were taken to Camp Douglas in the bitter winter of 1861-62, they were like foreigners—with

their odd accents and thin clothing.

What sort of place had these southerners come to? Was there any system to take care of them? What chance did they have to survive the cold northern winters? These are some of the questions to be addressed on April 23. Chicago became, in the early 1860s, what Levy refers to as "the largest Confederate burial site outside of the South."

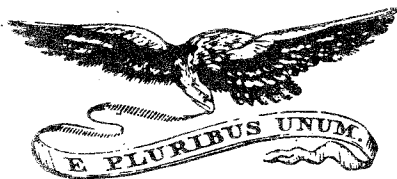
In his book *To Die in Chicago*, Levy describes the reaction of the local citizens and the Confederates as thousands of prisoners were dumped at the edge of the city. His extensive research has enabled him to go beyond statistics to probe the feelings and experiences of these transplanted southerners who found themselves in an alien climate, often without sufficient food or clothing.

Levy will also talk about Senator Douglas's role in placing the original University of Chicago in the front lines of the Civil War, just across the road from Camp Douglas, and the role of the Douglas estate in the Camp Douglas story. He will discuss how additional Douglas family land was used by Camp Douglas, and the camp's effect on the University of Chicago.



Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas

THE LITTLE GIANT



THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

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Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402
312 / 341-1860

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"I am not for the
dissolution of the Union
under any
circumstances."

S. A. Douglas

Freeport, August 27, 1858

C. ROBERT DOUGLAS NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION

C. Robert Douglas, former association treasurer, has been named president of the Stephen A. Douglas Association. He succeeds Brooks Davis, who is stepping down after serving as president since 1988. Davis will remain on the board of directors. Bob Douglas has been a member of the Douglas Association since its founding in 1975 by Mayor Richard J. Daley and Ralph G. Newman, current chairman of the board.

Douglas has been an insurance company executive for many years and is active in several historical organizations. He is a past president of The Civil War Round Table. For

over five years, he has written the book column for the Round Table Newsletter.

David Richert, an editor and writer, and publications director of the American Judicature Society, is the new treasurer of the Stephen A. Douglas Association. Glen N. Wiche, rare book dealer and vice president of Ralph Geoffrey Newman, Inc., has been named to the board of directors. Both men are also former presidents of The Civil War Round Table, and have made significant contributions to organizations dedicated to the study of Civil War history.

DOUGLAS EXHIBITION CONTINUES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

"Stephen A. Douglas and the American Union," an exhibition drawn from the Stephen A. Douglas Papers in the University of Chicago Library and including recent gifts from the Douglas family, continues through June 15 at the university's Regenstein Library, 1100 East 57th Street. For further information, call 312-702-8705.

ERNEST GRIFFIN TO BE HONORED

Ernest A. Griffin, a director of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, will be honored on May 1, at a ceremony at the Confederate Burial Mound at Oak Woods Cemetery. A program, entitled "A Tribute to the Diversity of the Confederate Army," will be presented by the Confederate POW Society of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Griffin will receive the society's Captain Henry Wirtz Award. The program begins at 11:00 a.m.

C-SPAN TO FEATURE REENACTMENTS OF LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

C-SPAN, the cable industry's public affairs network, will commemorate its fifteenth anniversary this year with a special series entitled "The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858." The series will feature complete historical reenactments of each debate in its entirety from the original debate sites, using local actors portraying Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

C-SPAN first envisioned this concept after C-SPAN Chairman Brian Lamb interviewed Harold Holzer on the "Booknotes" program. Holzer, author of *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete Unexpurgated Text* (1993), addressed the Douglas Association at its April 23, 1993, dinner.

SCHEDULE: The debates will air live from noon-6:00 p.m. (CDT) on the weekend days closest to the date in 1858 on which they took place. Each program will offer the three-hour debate, surrounded by two ninety-minute segments of contextual programming.

City	1858	1994
Ottawa	Saturday, August 21	Saturday, August 20
Freeport	Friday, August 27	Saturday, August 27
Jonesboro	Wednesday, September 15	Saturday, September 17
Charleston	Saturday, September 18	Sunday, September 18
Galesburg	Thursday, October 7	Saturday, October 8
Quincy	Wednesday, October 13	Sunday, October 9
Alton	Friday, October 15	Saturday, October 15

If the House of Representatives is in session on any of the assigned air dates, two "rain dates" are available on Saturday, October 20, and Sunday, October 21. The debates will air again in their entirety on C-SPAN 2 at 10:00 a.m. (CDT), beginning on Sunday, November 6, and continuing for the following six Sundays.



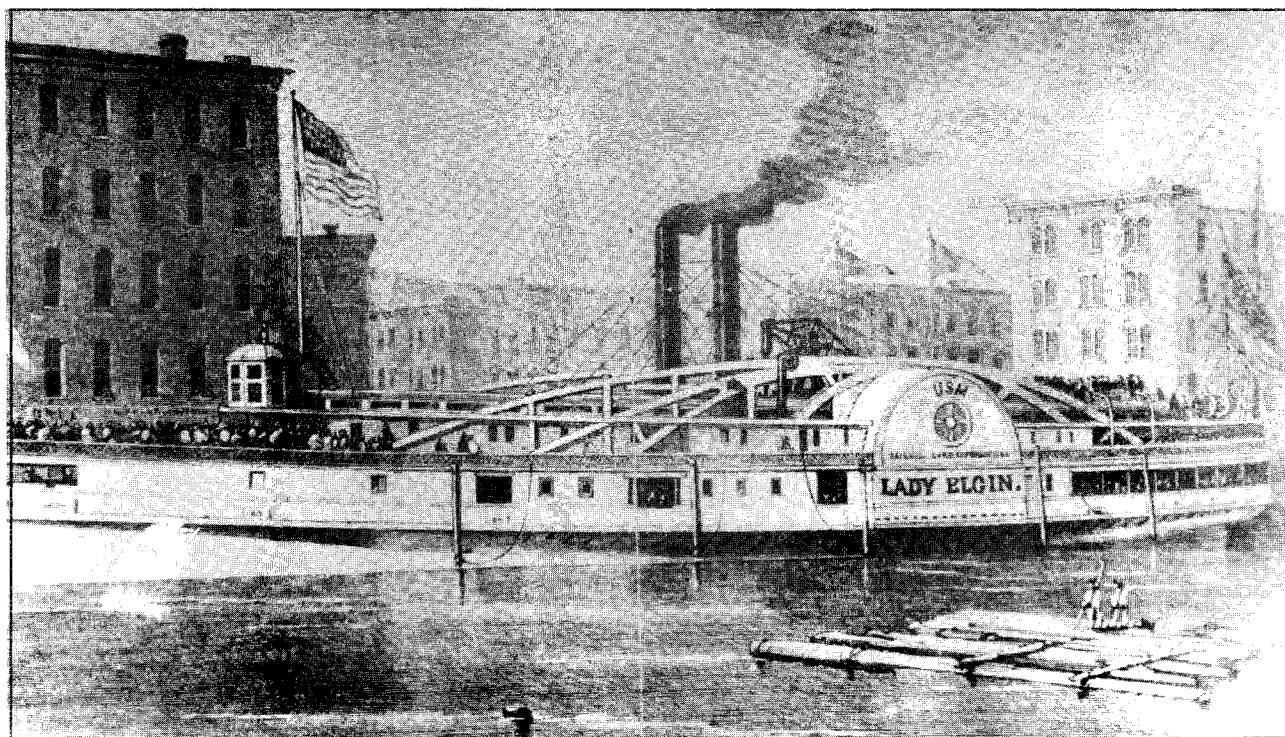
THE
**LINCOLN
DOUGLAS
DEBATES**
1858 • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • 1994
LIVE ON C-SPAN

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AT OR AFFECTING CAMP DOUGLAS

Compiled by George D. Levy

1861		September 30	General Tyler relieves Colonel Tucker of command.	February 16	Colonel Hoffman requests court martial for De Land.
April 12	Fort Sumter is fired upon.	October 1	Parolees mutiny and burn barracks and fences.	February 19	Surviving black Confederate prisoners released.
April 15	Large war meetings in Chicago.	October 23	General Tyler calls in the regular army to end mutiny.	April 17	General Grant cancels talks on further exchanges.
June 3	Death of Senator Stephen A. Douglas.	November 11	Smallpox strikes Camp Douglas.	March 1	Colonel De Land is replaced by Colonel James Strong.
September 30	Camp Douglas opens for recruiting and training.	December 13	General Tyler is replaced by Colonel Cameron.	May 2	General Orme resigns and is replaced by Colonel Sweet.
October 7	Colonel William Hoffman is named to manage U.S. prisons.	December 15	Camp is emptied of most parolees.	June 1	Prisoner's Square is rearranged to improve security.
November 1	First barracks are completed at Camp Douglas.	December 30	Colonel Cameron is relieved of command.	June 11	Confederate agents plan attack on Camp Douglas.
December 18	Troops mutiny.			July 4	Attack on camp postponed to July 20.
1862		1863		July 20	Attack postponed to August 29.
February 16	Fort Donelson falls to the Union Army.	January 1	Colonel Tucker resigns from the U.S. Army.	August 15	Smallpox cemetery opens across from camp.
February 20	Prisoners from Donelson arrive at Camp Douglas.	January 5	Battle of Stone's River, Tennessee.	August 18	Colonel Hoffman orders prisoners' cooking stoves removed.
February 21	Colonel Joseph H. Tucker takes command of camp.	January 6	General Joseph Ammen takes command of camp.	August 28	Alleged conspiracy to attack Camp Douglas collapses.
February 24	Mayor of Chicago warns that city is in danger.	January 11	Battle of Arkansas Post.	September 28	Colonel Sweet warns that escaping prisoners will be shot.
February 25	Rebel officers and their slaves leave Camp Douglas.	January 30	Prisoners at camp number 3800 from recent battles.	October 8	Prison count is 7402.
February 26	Colonel Tucker is replaced by Colonel James A. Mulligan.	March 31	Smallpox epidemic rages at camp.	October 28	Mass escape is thwarted by Captain Shurly.
April 6-7	Battle of Shiloh.	April 7	Infected prisoners sent to Baltimore for exchange.	November 6	Colonel Sweet begins arresting "conspirators."
April 10	Island No. 10 captured by the Union Army.	April 13	General Ammen is replaced by Colonel Cameron.	December 5	Remnants of General Hood's army crowd into camp.
April 16	Prisoners arrive at camp from Shiloh and Island No. 10.	April 19	Colonel Cameron is replaced by Captain John C. Phillips.	December 31	Prison count rises to 12,082.
April 21	Prison population reaches 8962.	May 4	Camp is emptied of prisoners.	1865	
April 5	Mass escape foiled by Colonel Mulligan.	August 17	Prisoners from Morgan's Raid begin to arrive.	January 12	Inquiry is ordered into shooting of prisoners.
May 19	Chicago investigates sanitary conditions at camp.	August 18	Colonel De Land, with 900 men, ordered to take command.	January 31	Guards go on drunken rampage, again.
June 14	Colonel Mulligan is replaced by Colonel Daniel Cameron.	September 26-29	309 members of Invalid Corps arrive for guard duty.	February 1	11,711 prisoners in camp.
June 19	Colonel Cameron is replaced by Colonel Tucker.	October 22	Daring escape is made from dungeon by Morgan's men.	February 13	First prisoner exchange since April, 1863, begins.
June 30	U.S. Sanitary Commission condemns Camp Douglas.	November 6	Running water sewers and toilets start operating.	July 5	Only 30 prisoners remain, and guards are withdrawn.
July 8	Martial law is declared around camp.	November 16	Retaliation against prisoners begins.	August 29	All property and buildings in camp ordered sold.
July 9	Colonel Mulligan is accused of mismanagement.	December 3	100 prisoners escape through a tunnel.	September 29	General Sweet resigns.
July 15	Five women and a child are found among the prisoners.	December 16	General William W. Orme takes command of prison.	December 8	U.S. begins search for 4000 dead prisoners.
July 22	North and South agree to exchange prisoners.	December 19	General Orme investigates food contractors.	December 11	655 bodies are removed from smallpox cemetery.
July 23	Prisoners launch general escape attempt.	December 30	Blizzard and sub-zero temperatures strike camp.	December 24	Last buildings at camp are sold.
August 4	Colonel Tucker arrests former mayor in escape plot.	1864		1866	
August 12	Charges are filed against Colonel Mulligan.	January 1	General Orme moves to release black prisoners of war.	January 8	Last parcel of Camp Douglas land returned to owners.
August 28	Colonel Tucker sends prisoners to the South for exchange.	January 3	General Orme places new restrictions on prisoners.	March 2	Camp Douglas officially ceases to exist.
September 27	Camp is emptied of prisoners.	January 18	Prison population reaches 5616.		
September 28	Paroled Union prisoners arrive, under General Tyler.	January 28	"Prisoner's Square" is established within the camp.		

(continued on page 4)



THE LITTLE GIANT AND THE LADY ELGIN

by Glen N. Wiche

ONE of the worst maritime disasters to occur on Lake Michigan took place during the Presidential election of 1860 and claimed the lives of many vociferous supporters of the Little Giant. The passenger boat the *Lady Elgin* had brought several hundred Douglas followers from Milwaukee to attend a campaign rally in Chicago during the first week of September. On her return voyage, on September 7, the boat sank off Winnetka with the loss of some three hundred lives.

For several days this great human tragedy pushed the election away from

center stage in the metropolitan dailies. The *Chicago Tribune* devoted the whole of its first page to the sinking, ran stories for several days thereafter recounting the experiences of the survivors and the efforts to reclaim bodies from the wreckage, and established a relief fund.

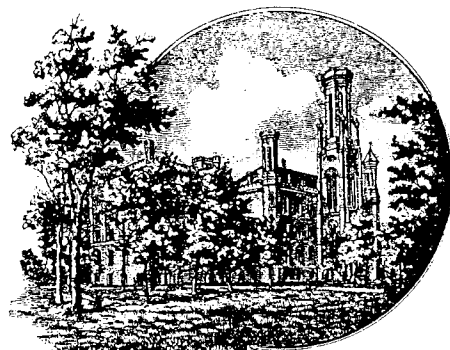
The disaster also inspired one Henry C. Work to commemorate the incident in words and music. Copyrighted in 1861, his "Lost On The *Lady Elgin*" was described as a "Song and Chorus Commemorating The Terrible Lake Disaster of Friday Night, September 7th, 1860."

LADY ELGIN from Illustrated London News, October 6, 1860. Photo: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency



H.M. Higgins of 117 Randolph Street published the piece.

A portion of the song's sincere (if somewhat tortuously-rhymed) lyrics is here offered to our readers. Contrary to rumors, the board of directors is not planning to include the song as part of our regular gatherings. "Sweeping across the waters / And echoing along the shore / Caught by the morning breezes / Borne on the furious gale / Cometh a voice of mourning. A sad and solemn wail."



The "Old" University of Chicago, existing from 1857 to 1886, stood on a tract of land donated for the purpose by Senator Stephen A. Douglas.

Chronology (continued from page 3)

April 27	Prisoners' remains found in City Cemetery.	monument at Oak Woods Cemetery.
December 1	1402 graves can be counted.	
1867		
April 13	Remains are removed from City to Oak Woods Cemetery.	
1882		
January 25	More prisoners' remains are found near former camp.	
1895		
May 30	Ex-Confederates dedicate	United Daughters of the Confederacy return for rededication.

1899

May 20

Confederate graves disappearing into a swamp.

1903

Oak Woods fills in the burial plot in order to save the remains.

1992

Furor in Chicago City Council over proposed landmark status.

1994